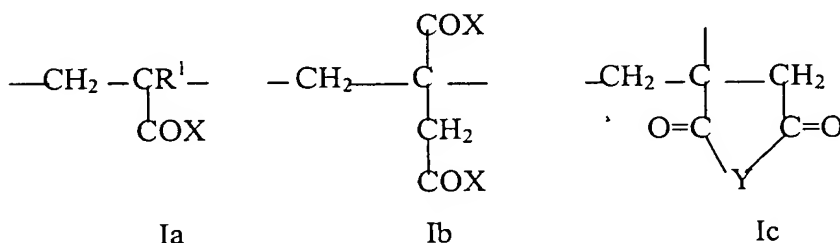


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

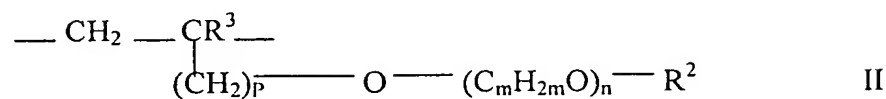
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluidising admixture for use with sprayable cementitious compositions, the admixture consisting of:
 - (1) 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid;
 - (2) optionally, citric acid; and
 - (3) at least one polymer derived from ethylenically-unsaturated mono-or dicarboxylic acids, and characterised in that the polymer consists of:
 - a) 51-95 mole % of moieties of formula 1a and/or 1b and/or 1c



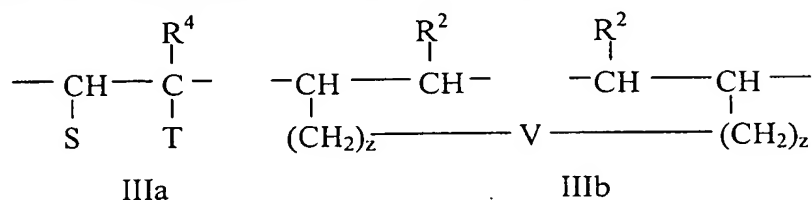
wherein R^1 = hydrogen or a C_{1-20} aliphatic hydrocarbon residue;
 $X = O_a M$, $-O-(C_m H_{2m} O)_n - R^2$, $-NH-(C_m H_{2m} O)_n - R^2$,
 M = hydrogen, a mono- or divalent metal cation, an ammonium ion or an organic amine residue;
 $a = 0.5$ or 1 ;
 R^2 = hydrogen, C_{1-20} aliphatic hydrocarbon, C_{5-8} cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon or optionally substituted C_{6-14} aryl residue;
 $Y = O$, NR^2 ;
 $m = 2-4$; and
 $n = 0-200$;

b) 1-48.9 mole% of moieties of the general formula II

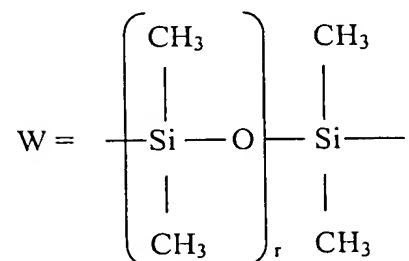


wherein R^3 = hydrogen or C_{1-5} aliphatic hydrocarbon;
 $p = 0-3$; and
 R^2 has the meaning given previously;

c) 0.1-5 mole % of moieties of Formulae IIIa or IIIb

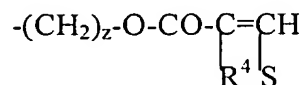
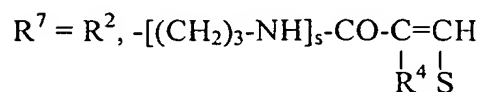
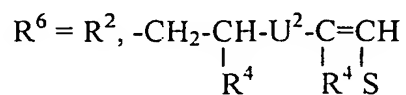


wherein $\text{S} = \text{H}, -\text{COO}_a\text{M}, -\text{COOR}^5$
 $\text{T} = \text{U}^1\text{---}\underset{\text{CH}^3}{\text{CH}}\text{---CH}_2\text{---O)}_x\text{---(CH}_2\text{---CH}_2\text{O)}_y\text{R}^6$
 ---W---R^7
 $\text{---CO---[NH---(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{]}_s\text{---W---R}^7$
 $\text{---CO---O---(CH}_2\text{)}_z\text{---W---R}^7$
 $\text{---(CH}_2\text{)}_z\text{---V---(CH}_2\text{)}_z\text{---CH=CH---R}^2$
 $= -\text{COOR}^5$ when S is $-\text{COOR}^5$ or COO_aM
 $\text{U}^1 = -\text{CO---NH---}, -\text{O---}, -\text{CH}_2\text{O---}$
 $\text{U}^2 = -\text{NH---CO---}, -\text{O---}, -\text{OCH}_2\text{---}$
 $\text{V} = -\text{O---CO---C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---CO---O---}$ or $-\text{W---}$



$\text{R}^4 = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3$

R^5 = a C_3 - 20 aliphatic hydrocarbon residue, a C_5 - C_8 cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon residue or a C_6 - 14 aryl residue;



wherein

$$r = 2-100$$

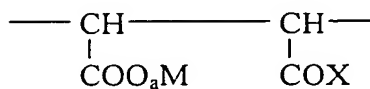
$$s = 1, 2$$

$$z = 0-4$$

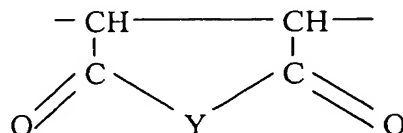
$$x = 1-150$$

$$y = 0-15; \text{ and}$$

d) 0-47.9 mole % of moieties of the general formula IVa and / or IV b:



IVa



IVb

wherein a, M, X and Y have the ~~significances hereinabove defined~~ meanings defined above.

2. (Currently Amended) A fluidising admixture according to claim 1, in which:

a) the moiety is according to formula Ia;

R^1, R^2 are independently H or CH_3 ;

$X = O_a M, -O-(C_m H_{2m}O)_n-R^2$

M = H or a mono-or divalent metal cation;

a = 1;

Y = O, NR^2 ;

m = 2-3; and

n = 20-150;

b) R^2, R^3 are independently H or CH_3 ; and

p = 0-1; and

c) the moiety is according to formula IIIa;

S = H, $-COO_aM$, $-COOR^5$

$T = U^1 - (\underset{\underset{CH^3}{|}}{CH} - CH_2 - O)_x - (CH_2 - CH_2 - O)_y R^6$

$-CO-[NH-(CH_2)_3]_s - W - R^7$

$-CO-O-(CH_2)_z - W - R^7$

R^4, R^5 are independently H, CH_3 ;

$R^6 = R^2, -CH_2 - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{CH} - U^2 - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{C} = \underset{\underset{S}{|}}{CH}$

$R^7 = R^2, -[(CH_2)_3 - NH]_s - CO - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{C} = \underset{\underset{S}{|}}{CH}$

$-(CH_2)_z - O - CO - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{C} = \underset{\underset{S}{|}}{CH}$

wherein

$U^1 = -CO-NH-, -O-, -CH_2-O-$

$U^2 = -NH-CO-, -O-, -OCH_2-$

$U^1 = -CO-NH-, -O-, -CH_2-O-$

$U^2 = -NH-CO-, -O-, -OCH_2-$

x = 20-50;

y = 1-10; and

z = 0-2.

3. (Currently Amended) A fluidising admixture according to claim 2, in which:

a) the moiety is according to formula Ia;

$R^1 = H$;

$R^2 = CH_3$;

X = $O_a M$;

M = a mono-or divalent metal cation;

Y = O, NR^2 ;

m = 2; and

n = 25-50;

b) $R^2, R^3 = H$; and

p = 0; and

c) the moiety is according to formula IIIa;

S = H, $-\text{COO}_a\text{M}$;

$T = \text{U}^1 - (\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_x - (\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2\text{O})_y \text{R}^6$
 $\quad \quad \quad |$
 $\quad \quad \quad \text{CH}^3$

$-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_z-\text{W}-\text{R}^7$

$R^4, R^5 = H$;

$R^6 = R^2, -\text{CH}_2-\underset{\substack{| \\ R^4}}{\text{CH}}-\text{U}^2-\underset{\substack{| \\ R^4}}{\text{C}}=\underset{\substack{| \\ S}}{\text{CH}}$

$R^7 = R^2, -[(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{NH}]_5-\text{CO}-\underset{\substack{| \\ R^4}}{\text{C}}=\underset{\substack{| \\ S}}{\text{CH}}$

$-(\text{CH}_2)_z-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\underset{\substack{| \\ R^4}}{\text{C}}=\underset{\substack{| \\ S}}{\text{CH}}$

wherein

$\text{U}^1 = -\text{CO}-\text{NH}-$;

$\text{U}^2 = -\text{NH}-\text{CO}-, -\text{O}-, -\text{OCH}_2-$

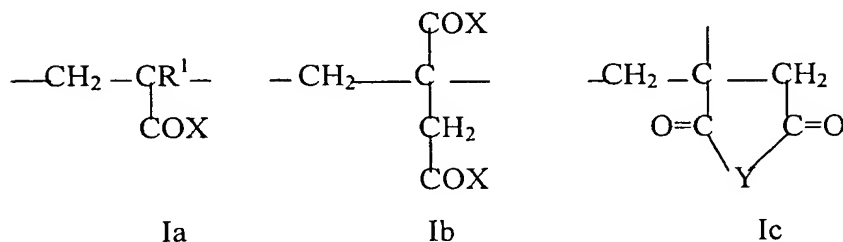
x = 20-50;

y = 5-10; and

z = 1-2.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of imparting flow to a cementitious composition, comprising the addition thereto of [[an]] the admixture according to any one of claims of claim 1 [[-3]].
5. (Currently Amended) A method of spraying a cementitious composition comprising [[by]] preparing a cementitious mix and conveying the mix to a spray nozzle, there being added to the mix at preparation [[an]] the admixture according to of claim 1.
6. (New) The admixture of claim 1 wherein the polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 50,000.

7. (New) The admixture of claim 1 wherein the polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of from about 10,000 to about 40,000.
8. (New) The admixture of claim 1 wherein the proportions of the solids of the three components are:
 Component 1 - about 1 % to about 40 %;
 Component 2 - 0 to about 40 %; and
 Component 3 - about 5 % to about 60 %.
9. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein the admixture is added at a rate of from about 0.2 % to about 2 % by weight solids of cement.
10. (New) A fluidising admixture for use with sprayable cementitious compositions, the admixture comprising:
 - (1) 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid;
 - (2) optionally, citric acid monohydrate; and
 - (3) at least one polymer derived from ethylenically-unsaturated mono-or dicarboxylic acids, and characterised in that the polymer comprises:
 - a) 51-95 mole % of moieties of formula 1a and/or 1b and/or 1c



wherein R^1 = hydrogen or a C_{1-20} aliphatic hydrocarbon residue;
 $X = O_a M$, $-O-(C_m H_{2m}O)_n-R^2$, $-NH-(C_m H_{2m}O)_n-R^2$,
 M = hydrogen, a mono-or divalent metal cation, an ammonium ion or an organic amine residue;

a=0.5 or 1;

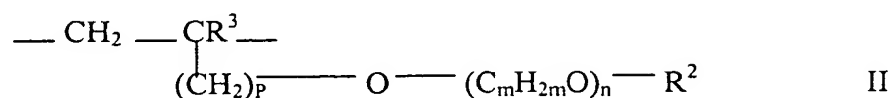
R² = hydrogen, C₁₋₂₀ aliphatic hydrocarbon, C₅₋₈ cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon or optionally substituted C₆₋₁₄ aryl residue;

Y= O, NR²;

m= 2-4; and

n= 0-200;

b) 1-48.9 mole% of moieties of the general formula II

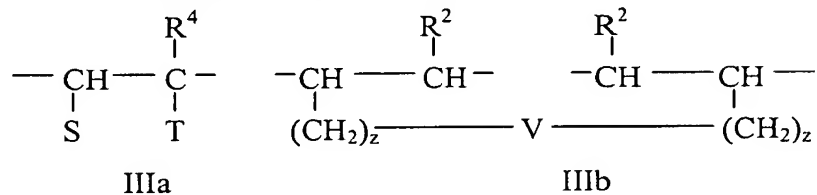


wherein R³ = hydrogen or C₁₋₅ aliphatic hydrocarbon;

p = 0-3; and

R² has the meaning given previously;

c) 0.1-5 mole % of moieties of Formulae IIIa or IIIb



wherein S = H, -COO_aM, -COOR⁵

T = U¹-(CH-CH₂-O)_x-(CH₂-CH₂O)_yR⁶
 $\begin{array}{c} | \\ \text{CH}^3 \end{array}$

-W-R⁷

-CO-[NH-(CH₂)₃]_s-W-R⁷

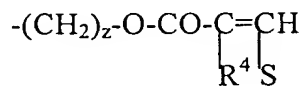
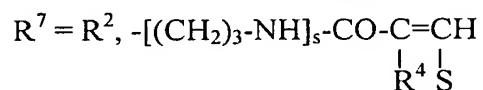
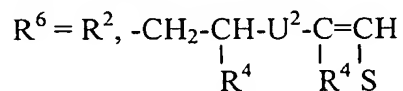
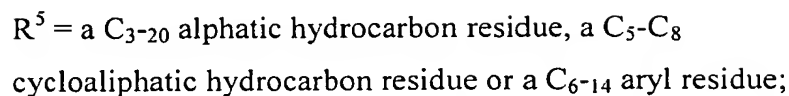
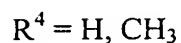
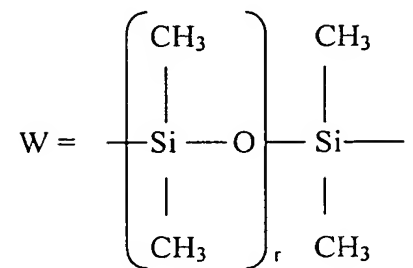
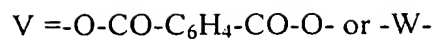
-CO-O-(CH₂)_z-W-R⁷

-(CH₂)_z-V-(CH₂)_z-CH=CH-R²

= -COOR⁵ when S is -COOR⁵ or COO_aM

U¹ = -CO-NH-, -O-, -CH₂O-

U² = -NH-CO-, -O-, -OCH₂-



wherein

$$r = 2\text{-}100$$

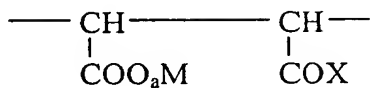
$$s = 1, 2$$

$$z = 0\text{-}4$$

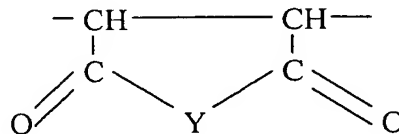
$$x = 1\text{-}150$$

$$y = 0\text{-}15; \text{ and}$$

d) 0-47.9 mole % of moieties of the general formula IVa and / or IV b:



IVa



IVb

wherein a, M, X and Y have the meanings defined above.

11. (New) A fluidising admixture according to claim 10, in which:

a) the moiety is according to formula Ia;

R^1, R^2 are independently H or CH_3 ;

$X = O_a M, -O-(C_m H_{2m} O)_n - R^2$

$M = H$ or a mono-or divalent metal cation;

$a = 1$;

$Y = O, NR^2$;

$m = 2-3$; and

$n = 20-150$;

b) R^2, R^3 are independently H or CH_3 ; and

$p = 0-1$; and

c) the moiety is according to formula IIIa;

$S = H, -COO_a M, -COOR^5$

$T = U^1 - \underset{\underset{CH^3}{|}}{(CH-CH_2-O)}_x - (CH_2-CH_2O)_y R^6$

$-CO-[NH-(CH_2)_3]_s - W - R^7$

$-CO-O-(CH_2)_z - W - R^7$

R^4, R^5 are independently H, CH_3 ;

$R^6 = R^2, -CH_2 - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{CH} - U^2 - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{C} = \underset{\underset{S}{|}}{CH}$

$R^7 = R^2, -[(CH_2)_3 - NH]_s - CO - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{C} = \underset{\underset{S}{|}}{CH}$

$-(CH_2)_z - O - CO - \underset{\underset{R^4}{|}}{C} = \underset{\underset{S}{|}}{CH}$

wherein

$U^1 = -CO-NH-, -O-, -CH_2 O-$

$U^2 = -NH-CO-, -O-, -OCH_2-$

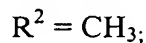
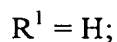
$x = 20-50$;

$y = 1-10$; and

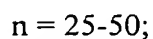
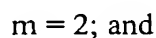
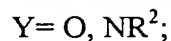
$z = 0-2$.

12. (New) A fluidising admixture according to claim 11, in which:

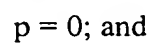
a) the moiety is according to formula Ia;



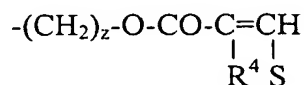
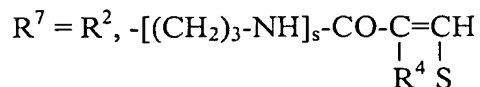
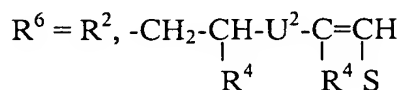
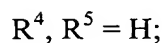
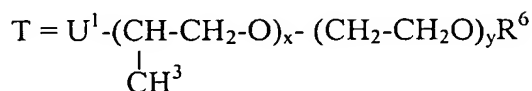
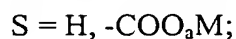
M = a mono-or divalent metal cation;



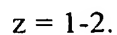
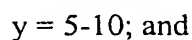
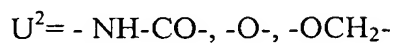
b) $R^2, R^3 = H;$ and



c) the moiety is according to formula IIIa;



wherein



13. (New) A method of imparting flow to a cementitious composition, comprising the addition thereto of the admixture of claim 10.

14. (New) A method of spraying a cementitious composition comprising preparing a cementitious mix and conveying the mix to a spray nozzle, there being added to the mix at preparation the admixture of claim 10.
15. (New) The admixture of claim 10 wherein the polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 50,000.
16. (New) The admixture of claim 10 wherein the polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of from about 10,000 to about 40,000.
17. (New) The admixture of claim 10 wherein the proportions of the solids of the three components are:
Component 1 - about 1 % to about 40 %;
Component 2 - 0 to about 40 %; and
Component 3 - about 5 % to about 60 %.
18. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the admixture is added at a rate of from about 0.2% to about 2% by weight solids of cement.